



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/601,155	06/20/2003	Cheng-Che Tsai	NT124-9 (15737-216CIP)	6921
7590	03/18/2004			EXAMINER
Alan D. Kamrath Rider Bennett, LLP Suite 2000 333 South Seventh Street Minneapolis, MN 55402			BARRETT, SUZANNE LALE DINO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3676	
DATE MAILED: 03/18/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/601,155	TSAI, CHENG-CHE
Examiner	Art Unit	
Suzanne Dino Barrett	3676	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 June 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the use of the word "invention" in the penultimate line; also, in the last line, "forgot" should be --forgotten--. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 1, lines 9,13,14, and page 2, the last line, page 4, line 21, page 8, line 3, "forgot" should be changed to --forgotten--; also page 1, line 24, page 3, line 18, before "outer surface", change "a" to --an--; on page 6, line 5, after "embodiment", insert --of-- .

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1 and 4 are objected to because of the following informalities: in claim 1, line 8 and claim 4, line 8, "a outer surface" should be --an outer surface--; claim 1, line 42 and claim 4, line 43, "forgot" should be --forgotten--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 18 and claim 4, line 18, there is no proper antecedent basis for "the other end" since no "end" has yet been recited, further, in claim 1, line 44, and claim 4, line 45, "one end" is unclear since no end has been previously recited. Note that claims 2,3,5,6 are included herein merely because of their dependency.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-6 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

The prior art of record fails to teach all of the structure of the claimed invention. Specifically, the aligned protuberances of the hollow spindle and the aligned grooves of the ridged section were not found in combination with the other lock structure including the push ring 3 and sealing ring 5 with spring biased ball detent 52, to provide a changeable lock combination by using a key to turn the ridged section to disengage the number rings as claimed. While a double patenting rejection was considered in view of the allowed application 10/279,526 and further in view of Kuo 6,422,051 which clearly discloses a hollow spindle having aligned protuberances 114, the prior art of record failed to disclose a ridged section having aligned first grooves as set forth in claims 1 and 4. Accordingly, claims 1-6 define over the prior art of record.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Note the Kuo '051 spindle and protuberances 114; and the inner ring 4 of Ling '623, especially.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suzanne Dino Barrett whose telephone number is 703-308-0825. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:30-7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 703-308-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Suzanne Dino Barrett
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3676

sdb